

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2016-2017 As of December 2017

In January 2017, there were 121 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 3,032 students or 2,966.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* In the 2016-17 school year, the WPCP state aid for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$7,323 and \$7,969 for a student enrolled full-time in grade nine through twelve.

2015 Act 55 (Wisconsin 2015-17 Biennial Budget) changed the manner in which the WPCP is funded. Students that participated in the program prior to the 2015-16 school year will continue to be fully funded from state general purpose revenue. Pupils who begin attending a private school under the WPCP in the 2015-16 school year and thereafter are referred to as “incoming pupils.” All choice pupils participating in the WPCP must identify their resident public school district (the public school district where they reside on the 3rd Friday in September). Wisconsin public school districts will have their state general aid reduced by an amount equal to the amount paid by the state to participating private schools attributable to the incoming pupils residing in the district.

If the resident public school district does not receive an equalization aid payment sufficient to cover the incoming choice pupil aid reduction, the balance would be reduced from other state aid received by the district. Incoming pupils in the WPCP are included in their resident public school district’s membership for state general aid purposes in the following year. Districts may not levy to backfill the aid reduction. School districts receive a non-recurring revenue limit exemption equal to the number of FTE choice students multiplied by the current year revenue limit per student. For the 2016-17 school year, no more than 1% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 3,853 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in July for districts with more applications than the 1% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 494 students remaining on the waiting lists and 260 students who chose not to participate in the program. The department is required to fill a seat from a district’s waiting list if a choice student leaves a school and the choice enrollment falls below the 1% limit.

Table 1 shows the WPCP enrollment by grade level. The number of students listed in the table is reported by headcount and FTE. For example, a four-year-old kindergarten student may be counted as 0.5 or 0.6 FTE.

**TABLE 1
WPCP 2016-2017 Enrollment by Grade Level***

Grade Level	3rd Friday in September 2016		2nd Friday in January 2017	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	127	64.9	121	61.9
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	253	246.5	258	251.5
1st Grade	300	300.0	298	298.0
2nd Grade	236	236.0	234	234.0
3rd Grade	217	217.0	213	213.0
4th Grade	224	224.0	224	224.0
5th Grade	228	228.0	227	227.0
6th Grade	215	215.0	214	214.0
7th Grade	205	205.0	203	203.0
8th Grade	185	185.0	184	184.0
9th Grade	298	298.0	295	295.0
10th Grade	221	221.0	217	217.0
11th Grade	198	198.0	195	195.0
12th Grade	152	152.0	149	149.0
Totals	3,059	2,990.4	3,032	2,966.4

*These numbers are as of October 2017 and are subject to change.

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Table 2 provides the total number of students in the WPCP by where (and if) they were enrolled in school in 2015-16.

TABLE 2
2016-17 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

2015-2016 Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2016			
	Headcount**	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School	2,604	85.13%	2,577.0	86.18%
Wisconsin Public School	276	9.02%	274.5	9.18%
No School	120	3.92%	80.4	2.69%
Homeschooled	56	1.83%	56.0	1.87%
Out of State	3	0.10%	2.5	0.08%
Totals	3,059	100%	2,990.4	100%

* These numbers are as of October 2017 and are subject to change.

** Of the 2,604 students enrolled in private school in 2015-16, 2,234 (2,234.0 FTE) participated in the WPCP in 2015-16. Of the remaining 370 students (343.0 FTE) enrolled in a private school in 2015-16, 136 (109.0 FTE) students applied to kindergarten, 95 students applied to first grade and 139 students applied to ninth grade for the 2016-17 school year.

Table 3 provides the total number of students on the WPCP waiting list for the 2016-17 school year due to the 1% public school district limit.

TABLE 3
2016-17 WPCP Waiting List and 1% School District Limit*

School District	Number Students on WPCP Waiting List	School District 1% Limit
Appleton Area	43	154
Bonduel	7	9
Burlington Area	11	33
Chippewa Falls Area Unified	18	52
Eau Claire Area	7	113
Fond du Lac	13	75
Green Bay Area Public	88	223
Manitowoc	28	53
Marshfield Unified	26	40
Menasha Joint	13	38
Neenah Joint	21	67
Nekoosa	6	12
North Fond du Lac	3	13
Oostburg	5	10
Oshkosh Area	22	99
Plymouth Joint	6	23
Portage Community	7	24
Shawano	20	25
Sheboygan Area	45	104
Stevens Point Area Public	3	74
Waupun	11	20
West Allis-West Milwaukee	12	87
Wisconsin Rapids	42	51
Total Students	457	

*There are also 37 students on the WPCP waiting list due to schools limiting the number of seats available. Some of these seat limits are in districts that have a waiting list due to the 1% limit. The 37 students are not included in Table 3.